

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Amended) The light collection optical elements of claim 29, wherein the axicon includes a polymer.

Claims 18-23 (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Amended) The light collection optical elements of claim 29, wherein the lens includes a doublet.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Amended) The light collection optical elements of claim 29, wherein the MTF of the lens is higher with the axicon than without the axicon for bar code symbols having spatial wavelengths of 10-20 mils, inclusive.

Claim 28 (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) Light collection optical elements for a bar code scanner, the light connection elements positioned to collect light reflected from a bar code symbol, the light collection optical elements comprising an imaging element and a collection lens for collecting light reflected from the bar code symbol and directing an image of the bar code symbol onto the imaging element, the collection lens comprising an axicon element shaped and positioned to elongate the focal depth of the collection lens and thereby extend the working range over which the bar code symbol can be resolved by the imaging element.

Claim 30 (Cancelled).

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31. (Previously Amended) The light collection optical elements of claim 29 wherein the imaging element is a CCD device.